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34th Thanksgiving Regatta

- see back page for more photos and results



St. John Tradewinds News photo by Jaime Elliott

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Jude Delays Malfetti Murder Trial for Nine Months

- New Trial Date Set for August 2016 -

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

A Superior Court Judge ruled last week that the trial of the man accused of killing James Malfetti on St. John in 2014 will have to wait until August 2016.

In spite of protests coming from the lawyer representing defendant Mekel Blash, Superior Court Judge Denise Francois did not grant a requested pre-trial release.

Blash was arrested in April 2015 and charged with fatally stabbing Malfetti, 41, in a rented apartment in Estate Chocolate Hole in 2014.

The decision to postpone the trial, originally scheduled to begin November 30, was made at a pre-trial hearing on November 18. Judge Francois decided — and attorneys for both sides agreed — that they would not be ready to take the case to a late November trial.

Attorney Julie Todman, Blash's public defender, also pointed out that the medical examiner was on leave and not available to testify about the autopsy on Malfetti, an important piece of testimony in the murder case.

"That should give everyone ample time to give everyone time to get DNA results, forensic results and hopefully Dr. Landron will be back by that time," said Judge Francois.

A new date for jury selection was set for August 8, 2016, with a pre-trial hearing set for July 25, 2016.

Francois also said she could not schedule Blash's trial for November or December because several pre-trial matters slated for the November 18 hearing before his case came up, had filled the docket.

The defendant has been held on \$500,000 bail at the St. Thomas Criminal Justice Complex since his arrest on April 17.

Last week Attorney Todman asked the court to grant her client an unsecured bond, arguing that an August trial was too long for Blash to remain in pre-trial detention.

"There are too many challenges to doing it sooner," Francois replied.

For several months Francois had delayed making a decision about allowing the defendant to go free, pending trial. At the detention

hearing held shortly after Blash's arrest, the court heard testimony about the defendant's violent past.

That past included involvement with a 2006 drive by shooting in Cruz Bay and a robbery and assault which Blash served time for previously. There was also testimony by relatives of one of Blash's children over threats he allegedly made against them. And a detective testified about a prior incident where the defendant's girlfriend allegedly spoke to a witness and told her to change her testimony.

Todman said doubts were being raised about the witness statement given to investigators in the detective's account. That witness, the attorney said, never claimed she was threatened. Attempts to contact the detective for a follow up, however, were not successful.

As the hearing wrapped up, Todman pointed out that putting off the trial for nine months leaves her client behind bars until then. Francis said the August date was the best the court could do.

The judge declined further comment on the matter of detention.

Francis Bay Road Work Kicks off Monday

The Francis Bay Road Improvement Project will begin Monday, November 30 in V.I. National Park.

This road improvement project is not expected to take more than 30 days to complete, and should have minimal impact on park visitors. The project will address environmental concerns of damage to wetlands and the nearby bay from sediment due to erosion and subsequent runoff.

The work will also improve safety on the road by eliminating large and deep pot holes that develop after storms. The project will entail paving or gravelling just under 1,000 feet of road, beginning at the end of the existing pavement (approximately 335 feet of pavement, with the remainder of the road being graveled).

The beach will be accessible to vehicles throughout the project, though visitors should be prepared for possible delays of up to 15 minutes.

Bethany Moravian Pre-Christmas Dinner & Show Set for Dec. 5

Join the members of the Bethany Moravian Church at their annual Pre-Christmas Dinner and Show on Saturday, December 5, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$8 for children, which can be paid at the door. For tickets and more information, call (340) 776-6291 or email Opti93@yahoo.com.

Centerline Road Work on St. John to Start Soon

Department of Public Works Commissioner Gustav James announced last week that Island Roads Corporation will be mobilizing to begin construction related activity on the Emergency Relief Repair Project on Centerline Road, St. John.

This project is comprised of three sites along Route 10, Centerline Road. The work entails the construction of retaining walls, drainage improvements and road repairs. This project is 100 percent funded by the Federal Highway Administration.

In the coming days, the contractor will begin installing construction signs, temporary traffic control devices, and mobilizing of construction equipment within the construction limits of the project.

A single lane road closure will be implemented on Route 10, Centerline Road, in the west bound lane throughout the duration of the project. The closed section will be signaled or provided with flagmen such that traffic can flow in both directions in an alternating pattern. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 24, 2016.

The temporary traffic control devices that will be installed are to assist motorists and pedestrians traveling through the work zones. Flaggers will also be present when needed. Motorists should proceed through these areas with caution while paying special attention to posted signage and construction personnel.

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Year To Date Average

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ACOE Deals Major Setback to Summer's End Group's Marina Plans

Developer Must Respond to 133 Concerns

By Jaime Elliott
St. John Tradewinds

By forcing Summer's End Group to respond to a list of 133 specific areas of concern regarding their proposed mega marina in Coral Bay, Army Corps of Engineers officials have dealt the development a near death blow.

After the Division of Fish and Wildlife — which had initially acted as the lead agency for the project — pulled a Boating Infrastructure Grant from Summer's End Group, the developer was required to begin its federal permitting process to develop a 145-slip marina anew. This time around, ACOE was the lead agency and the group relaunched a second public comment period.

"This summer, the Army Corps initiated a second public notice and a second public comment period which closed at the end of August," said David Silverman, one of the main organizers of the anti marina community group Save Coral Bay. "We had a phenomenal response during this comment period. There were 22,000 individual letters in opposition to the marina, compared to about 15,000 the first time around. That second comment period saw about 5,000 to 7,000 additional people sending in letters in opposition to the marina."

"We also had about 2,000 pages of formal comment from Coral Bay Community Council and Save Coral Bay with much of the same substance as well as new and updated material, including 33 pages of legal analysis from our federal lawyers," Silverman said. "Also our petition against the development had 8,500 signatures and all five federal agencies — EPA, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Fish and Wildlife and National Park Service — who had submitted comments against the marina, reiterated their earlier comments expressing serious concern and outright opposition to the



St. John Tradewinds News
Photo by Jaime Elliott

ACOE effectively withdrew Summer's End Group's application for a 145-slip marina in Coral Bay, at left.

development."

As part of their procedures, ACOE officials visited Coral Bay on October 3 and met with Save Coral Bay, CBCC and Coral Bay Yacht Club members, explained Silverman.

"I gave a presentation which summarized the principal areas of concern expressed by the public," said the community activist. "They were anxious to learn and hear about these concerns. The Army Corps officials were also taken on a natural resources tour of the bay by dinghy and they went on a walking tour of the land side of the project."

"They spent the entire day listening to and understanding the concerns of the residents and stakeholders in Coral Bay," said Silverman. "The day before, the Corps met with the applicants, Summer's End Group, National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey officials and toured the Hurricane Hole area."

Following their two day Coral Bay site visit, ACOE officials compiled the list of concerns and, on October 22, issued a 14-page letter to Summer's End Group detailing 133 different specific issues, which ranged from potential impacts of the marina on the environment to impacts on the community and tourism.

"In addition to the 14-page letter listing the 133 specific areas

of concern, ACOE also included 15,000 letters of opposition and the nine letters of support they received for the marina," said Silverman. "They also included all of the formal comments and sent this to Summer's End Group."

ACOE officials gave Summer's End Group 30 days to respond to the concerns, Silverman explained.

"On November 2, Amy Dempsey, the consultant for Summer's End Group, sent a letter to ACOE requesting additional time to respond," he said. "On November 3, the Corps responded to Summer's End Group acknowledging receipt of their letter."

ACOE officials informed Summer's End Group that their application was effectively being withdrawn until the applicant could respond to all 133 concerns, Silverman said.

"Basically what the Corps said was they are no longer going to work on this matter until the applicant supplies the information requested in the 133 concerns," said Silverman. "The way I interpret this action by ACOE to provide this extensive list of requirements is that it demonstrates that the community and federal agencies have wide ranging and serious concerns with the project. These concerns are not frivolous; they are very, very real concerns because they do need a response."

"It is going to take a very substantial amount of time and investment for the applicant to respond to the extensive list of concerns," said the community activist. "We believe that many of the concerns are insurmountable which no amount of study is going to make go away and the comments, including two agencies that have specifically recommended denial of the project, all support this conclusion."

"These are very important issues and very likely insurmountable issues," said Silverman. "I can't say how much time it would take to respond to the issues, but some areas of concern relate to migratory species and water movements in the harbor which would require real scientific study."

ACOE officials followed their regulations and procedures correctly, according to Silverman.

"They took to heart the things that the community, experts and federal agencies all had to say about this project," Silverman said. "We are very pleased with this outcome."

Looking ahead, Save Coral Bay officials are following a second planned marina in Coral Bay while still pursuing an appeal of Summer's End Group's Coastal Zone Management permit, Silverman added.

"We continue to have an appeal with CZM still pending and we

will continue to, through the Freedom of Information Act, monitor all filings with ACOE or other agencies about this marina," he said. "We are also watching very, very carefully what Serious Development Group is doing with their plans on the Moravian Conference property. We're trying to ensure that something positive happens for Coral Bay and that we get the right sort of infrastructure in place to protect and improve conditions in the harbor but not turn it into the vision that Summer's End Group had."

Save Coral Bay officials are optimistic about the lack of a future for Summer's End Group's planned mega marina, Silverman explained.

"We definitely feel that the tide has turned and that this is an affirmation at the federal level of the things we have been saying for well over a year now," said Silverman.

For more information about Save Coral Bay and how to support the group, check out www.savecoralbay.com

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St. John Tragedy Leads to Call for Better Pesticide Management

By Judi Shimel

St. John Tradewinds

Officials representing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources said at a conference last week that it's time to throttle back on the amount of pesticides used in the Virgin Islands.

The groups co-sponsored a workshop on integrated pest management on November 18 to promote the use of fewer toxic chemicals in pest control. DPNR Commissioner Dawn Henry and EPA Region II Director Judith Enck called for a positive response to the incident in March when a family of four suffered harm from pesticide exposure while vacationing on St. John.

The EPA regional director also told how holding a workshop like the one presented at the Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library serves the goal of regulators like herself to protect the public.

"I am hoping that today will be a turning point for how pesticides are used in the U.S. Virgin Islands," Enck said. "We simply cannot have another poisoning incident like we had on St. John. And while our hearts and our prayers are with the family that was so damaged by this incident, good thoughts and prayers are not enough here."

"We need strong regulatory enforcement of environmental regulations," said Enck. "We need tremendous public education and as the governor said, this needs to be

continuing."

In the March incident, middle school administrator Steve Esmond, his wife and two sons were exposed to methyl bromide while staying in a duplex where an application was made in a nearby unoccupied, ground floor unit. Methyl bromide is an odorless gas which is banned for indoor use.

As a result of that exposure, Esmond and his two sons, Ryan and Sean, were left paralyzed. The mother, Theresa Devine, suffered the least exposure but has been unable to return to work as a dentist.

After receiving emergency treatment at the Schneider Regional Medical Center, the family was returned to the Delaware area where they live. The two sons remained hospitalized for eight months after the incident occurred.

It was later learned through follow up investigations that more than a dozen others — including volunteers from St. John Rescue — were also exposed to methyl bromide as they conducted an emergency response. Six people in that group reported the onset of less severe symptoms, most of which cleared up within three weeks.

Governor Kenneth Mapp offered greetings to workshop attendees and presenters. Later, he signed a Memorandum of Understanding calling for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to join the EPA in efforts to combat climate change.

Mapp also thanked the participants, especially pest control

workers who took time to join the workshop.

"This is an important process," Mapp said. "There's such massive change in almost everything we're doing on the planet, technology, and how we are realizing the value of going back to the land and growing, and using applications from plants and nature to take care of many of these problems that we thought chiefly chemicals and poisons would take care of."

The audience for the workshop consisted of pest control workers and managers, federal and local officials, property managers and residents from St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John. Representatives of Terminix, the St. Thomas franchise implicated in the March incident at the Sirenusa condominium resort and their nearest competitor, Orkin, brought crewmen dressed in uniform to participate.

During a forum hosted later in the day with a panel of experts, the regional manager for Orkin gave his own perspective on factors that may have contributed to the incident in March.

Integrated Pest Management

Over the course of the day, there were many conversations between experts and pest control practitioners, who compared notes about roaches, rats, flies, ants, mice, mosquitos, termites, silver fish and bed bugs.

The concept of achieving pest control while reducing reliance on the harshest chemicals was introduced to participants as an "environmentally sensitive ap-

proach using a variety of tools," said Entomologist Jody Gangloff-Kaufman of Cornell University in her introduction.

While there are many definitions for the practice, Gangloff-Kaufman offered her own.

"Integrated Pest Management is common sense pest control that moves our focus from pesticides to non-pesticidal solutions and prevention of pests," she said.

The audience was urged to think of pest control as a process instead of as a product.

To illustrate the point, Gangloff-Kaufman displayed a pyramid chart. At the bottom were cultural methods, including building maintenance, communication, sanitation and education. Next came traffic control — keeping pests from traveling in and out of human environments.

The insect specialists then asked the audience to consider use of biological controls before employing poisons.

"The chemical part of the picture is the smallest part," Gangloff-Kaufman said. "We want to shift our focus to lower risk products."

Integrated pest control formed its roots in agriculture, but evolved into a set of strategies targeting schools, homes, restaurants, landscapes and hotels Gangloff-Kaufmann explained.

Hotels are one of the more challenging environments, because they are considered private property and the management practices used there are less subject to regu-

lation, she added.

One of the hardest places to perform pest control may be restaurants, especially ones which are open year-round with 24 hour operations, according to Gangloff-Kaufmann.

Placing an emphasis on food safety practices, however, can go a long way, she said.

Gangloff-Kaufmann displayed a slide showing unsanitary conditions in a non-public area of a well known restaurant in the Northeast.

"No pesticide can solve the problem, long term," said the entomologist. "This is a clean part of the restaurant. Obviously someone was doing some pest control but no pesticide can account for the sanitation that was not happening."

Property Manager's Perspective

There were also property managers looking for better ways to keep their guest accommodations bug free. Leslie Livacz from Sea Cliff Villas Condos spoke about keeping her 75 units on a three month pesticide regimen.

"I came here because I want to find out what's going on in the neighborhood, in terms of regulatory management," said Livacz. "I came to learn what the alternatives are about the situations I encounter."

One of those situations included a tenant, saying the bug spray left her feeling ill and asking the condo manager if she could use diatomaceous earth as a chemical alternative.

The EPA regional director sug-

Continued on next page



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St. John Tragedy Leads to Call for Better Pesticide Management

Continued from previous page

gested spraying pesticide through 75 condo units every three months was simply too much.

“We need to find a way to institutionalize integrated pest management in the Virgin Islands,” Enck said.

Pesticides and Children; A Particular Concern

Keynote speaker Dr. Phillip Landrigan, professor of Preventive Medicine and Pediatric Health at the Icahn School of Medicine in New York, addressed the impacts of pesticide exposure on human health and on children. Landrigan has served as an advisor to the EPA and helped direct the response in the Esmond family crisis.

Each year in the United States one billion pounds of pesticides are used, with herbicides and pesticides leading the way, according to Landrigan.

The early use of chemical pesticides and the effects that were seen as they gained wider use were highly praised but as time went by, harmful side effects began to appear. Those applications pose the greatest risk to two groups of people, exterminators and people working directly with the chemicals and children, Landrigan explained.

“Children are exposed to pesticides through multiple routes, multiple pesticides, and in all sorts of circumstances,” he said. “They can be exposed in schools, homes, in their playgrounds. They can be exposed where they’re working, if a child is working on a farm.”

“They can inhale them, they can swallow them, they can get them on their skin,” said Landrigan. “And they can get acutely poisoned and chronically poisoned.”

Using illustrations, he also showed how buildings, hotels and rental properties can also be sources of exposure for children.

After researching the subject for five years, Landrigan published a book, “Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children.” His research showed that children magnify their exposure through simple activities like putting their fingers in their mouths and rolling around in the grass.

As smaller beings, children suffer greater exposure than adults and they lack the biological mechanism to break down some harmful substances.

Pesticide exposure to children in the womb has been shown to increase the risk of brain damage and cancer, Landrigan explained.

“Children are infinitely more sensitive to toxic chemicals than adults,” he said. “The baby in the

womb is much, much more vulnerable to toxic chemicals than the adult. Even small levels of toxic chemicals can lead to lasting damage to the unborn child and therefore it is so critically important to minimize exposures.”

DPNR Next Steps

At mid morning, EPA’s Enck and DPNR Commissioner Henry hosted a press conference in the library conference room to talk about the goals and purpose of the workshop. Henry said the situation on St. John pointed to a need for better permitting and stronger enforcement.

“The Division of Environmental Protection, when it comes to our role as the regulator of pesticide management in the territory, we are focused on doing two very important things,” said Henry. “First, through the Pesticide Act of 2006, we’re required to have regulations that further manage the pesticide program within the territory. Secondly, through the statute that we have in place, we have already a draft application for both commercial permits and purchase permits within the pesticide program.”

Once approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor, users of restricted pesticides would apply for a special license and keep a log of when and where such substances are used. There would also be a separate purchasing license users would have to obtain, which would likely apply to end users, business agents and management companies.

Henry also alerted the public to upcoming public hearings, which will introduce localized regulations coinciding with the Pesticide Act.

The DPNR Commissioner extended her remarks later in the day as she joined a panel of experts addressing issues surrounding pesticide use. Some of Henry’s remarks came in response to the recurring question: How do banned pesticides, like methyl bromide, get into the territory?

“One concern I have is how do they get to the merchants if there is established research showing that these things are dangerous, people are dying from them,” asked St. Thomas educator Whitman Browne.

Even before new regulations and law come into play, DPNR enforcement officers are trying to step up their efforts with retailers and the public, Henry replied.

“The merchants are stocking it because we are buying them,” Henry said. “We need to educate the public as to why we should not choose to buy these products.”

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Connecting with Nature

by Gail Karlsson

Snow Bird or Born Here?

St. John Tradewinds

It's not always so easy to tell the difference.

This is the time of year when seasonal migrants – birds and people – start showing up in the Caribbean. Many only stay for a brief stopover and then move on, but a certain number of regulars settle in for the winter, filling local beaches and watering holes and acting like they belong here.

Some permanent residents welcome the influx, while others wish the migrants would just stay where they were and leave the islands to the locals.

Of course it is sometimes difficult to distinguish locals from part-timers – at least among the herons and egrets.

In the ponds near my house on St. John I see great egrets, snowy egrets, and cattle egrets, as well as black-crowned and yellow-crowned night herons, green herons, great blue herons, and little blue herons. None of these are special types of birds that live only in the tropics. They can be found all along the east coast of the US, and lots of other places as well. But some of these birds are actually full-time residents of the Virgin Islands. How can you tell?

Hérons and egrets that breed in the northeast US during the spring generally move south in the fall, and a few might pass through or even end up in the Virgin Islands. Birds living in warmer southern states don't migrate in the



same way. In the Caribbean, as well, some of the birds stay around all year, raising their young on island time. Their breeding schedule is linked to the wet and dry seasons that affect the availability of food here, rather than northern temperatures and ecological cycles.

My bird guidebook identifies a number of members of the heron/egret family as “common residents” that live and breed here: snowy egrets and cattle egrets, green and little blue herons, and yellow-crowned night herons.

Great egrets are considered “uncommon residents” in the Caribbean.

Last fall I saw flocks of great egrets gathering in Jamaica Bay in New York City at the end of September. Then one day in early October after I returned to St. John I woke up to find about 10 egrets sitting in the trees around the pond by my house in Fish Bay. It seemed like we were on the same flight path.

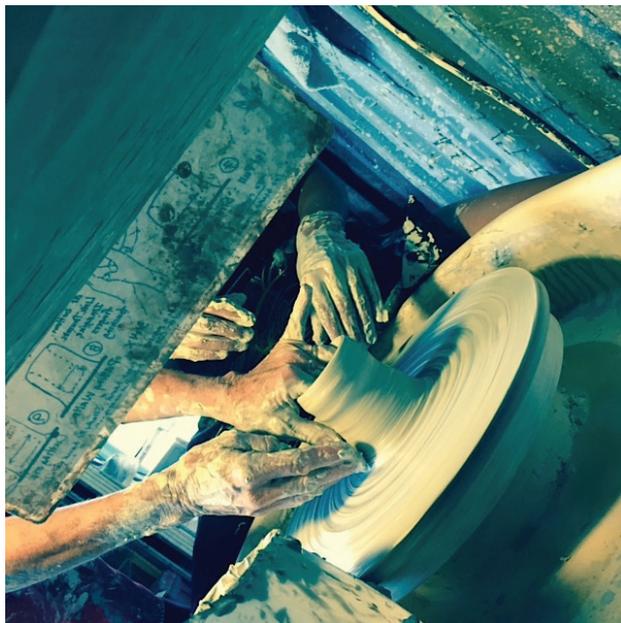
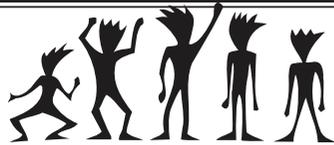
After a few of days most of the great egrets were gone, but a couple seemed to be fishing in the pond all winter. Were they on St. John all along, or did one pair of migrants settle down in the neighborhood for the season?

You would definitely be sure that an egret is living and breeding on St. John if you could find its nest. Up north, I have seen large numbers of nests all built close together in one or two trees, since there herons and egrets usually breed in colonies in the spring and stick together for protection.

An “uncommon resident” couple might end up nesting alone though, and at a different time of year. I have gone around looking for great egret nests in marshy areas of St. John, so far without success. If they are here, they are pretty well hidden.

There is another indication, though, that a great egret is a resident: if you see breeding plumage. I have definitely seen birds in the pond with the long, lacy breeding feathers that are called aigrettes. These plumes became popular for decorating ladies' hats in the late 19th century, and during that time egrets were hunted almost to the point of extinction. That was actually the impetus for the organization of the Audubon Society, as well as adoption of the Migratory Bird Treaty designed to protect these beautiful birds.

So at least some of the great egrets I see are permanent residents. Others, like me, travel back and forth, attracted to the warmth of the tropics, but not content to stay in one place all year. As Joni Mitchell wrote: “They got the urge for going, and they got the wings so they can go.”



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Package Delivery Improvements Hit Speed Bump

By Judi Shimel
St. John Tradewinds

A Cruz Bay businesswoman says there's a solution to the common island problem of getting packages delivered to a private company.

But getting St. John on the list of postal places using a pilot quick package delivery system is facing a speed bump. The U.S. Postal Service official who originally said he was willing to explore the idea, now says the matter is up for a postal review.

Cid Hamling, owner of Connections in Cruz Bay, said she began looking into a program called "Move to Compete." According to information on the internet and in national news segments, the program is an attempt by the U.S. Postal Service to recover financial losses suffered at the hands of next-day delivery services.

Initial attempts to find out more were unsuccessful, Hamling said, but persistence paid off when she contacted USPS District Marketing Manager Martin Caballero who said he'd look into it.

Move to Compete provides a system by which residents and businesses using post office boxes can submit the physical address of their local post office in order to satisfy shipping requirements from services like Federal Express, DHL and United Parcel Service.

"It's a year old program," Caballero said. "In the first draw, the Caribbean region — that is Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands — was not included, but in the second draw the Caribbean was included."

If USPS agreed to add the region to its list of eligible post office boxes the territory's post offices would receive two enhancements: there would be real time notification of packages tracked for delivery to cell phones and mobile devices; and parcel service companies would also start accepting street address delivery to post offices.

VI businesses could see the advantage of having such enhancements, but having them would likely increase post office box fees by 18-20 percent, according to Caballero

"We have a lot of businesses in the VI that bring in a lot of parcels," he said. "They're looking for this premium service."

The marketing manager also spoke about the interdependence between the postal service and small, independent contractors it relies on in both Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, a partnership that helps get packages to their destinations.

One such contractor is Keep Me Posted in Coral Bay, where proprietor Anna Adams charges a fee for package delivery to the businesses' address.

"A lot of people use the service, and they can pick up their boxes here" Adams said.

Seasonal demand for the service rises as snow birds arrive towards winter and holiday gifts travel back and forth.

Hamling's business, Connections, also helps island dwellers handle their mail and delivery needs. She said she was happy to know there were federal service workers interested in helping St. John eliminate hurdles to getting packages from popular retailers like Amazon.com and AT&T.

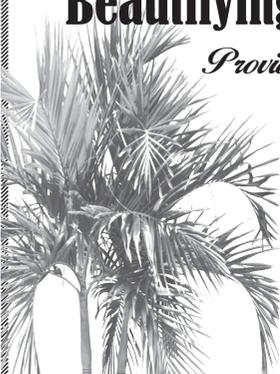
It's still common to hear stories about merchandise that never makes it to its destination, Hamling added.

Adding premium services, however, is far from a done deal, according to Caballero.

Most recently he heard the request was channelled to a postal review board. One of the measures the board would take into account, according to Caballero, is profitability to the postal service.

Caballero said he did not know how long it would take before a decision is reached.

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Island Residents Celebrate Flavors of St. John with Rotary



St. John Tradewinds News Photos by Yelena Rogers

Residents came out in force to support Rotary Club of St. John's scholarship program and enjoy food from some of the island's best restaurants at the annual Flavors fundraiser at the Westin Resort and Villas on Saturday, November 21.

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Historical Bits & Pieces

by Chuck Pishko
Fortsberg March



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of Chuck Pishko

On Friday, November 27, about 50 adults and students trekked to Fortsberg the site of the 1733 Revolution. Dr. Gilbert Sprauve and Sele Adeyemi, a Virgin Islands scholar, talked about the history of Fortsberg. The group also visited Estates Susannaberg, Adrian, Catherineberg and Annaberg which played roles in the revolution. One of the high points was the number of children and young adults who made the pilgrimage. Denmark was well represented by Louisa Sibro, her husband and son. Louisa got a chance to meet some real St. John historians while her son played an African instrument that made him sound like he was born here. The Echo People performed while the trekkers relaxed and enjoyed an island lunch. Please note the picture of the young surefooted St. Thomian girl walking through Fortsberg, above.



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Mongoose Junction Celebrates the Holiday Season with Evening in the Courtyard

St. John Tradewinds News Photos by William Stelzer

With a fabulous fashion show, raffle drawings and special savings throughout Mongoose Junction, the Cruz Bay shopping center kicked off the Holiday season in style on Friday night, November 27, with the annual Evening in the Courtyard celebration. Happy Holidays!



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Om on the Rock

A reflection on Yoga practice on St. John
by *Catherine Levy*

St. John Tradewinds

My first timid step on to a borrowed yoga mat in 1994 was a step into the unknown. At the time, all I knew about yoga was that my progressive San Francisco employer offered a free lunchtime class and that the people who took the class seemed happier and more productive. Since then, my knowledge of this transformative practice has been constantly unfolding.

From nervous neophyte to dedicated yoga practitioner, teacher and activist, I have come to realize that, at its heart, yoga is ineffable. It must be experienced to be truly understood. For the yoga curious, however, it is helpful to know what yoga is and what it is not. The roots of yoga can be traced back 4,000 years through Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Vedic scriptures and art. Not a religion or a sport, instead yoga is an evolving method of self-knowledge and acceptance.

Yoga includes how we breathe, eat, communicate, inhabit our bodies and how joyfully we live. Commonly divided into eight limbs of study as illuminated by ancient texts such as Pantanjali's Yoga Sutras, these teachings are: ethics,

self-awareness, physical postures, breath observation, self-control or withdrawal, contemplation and meditation.

Asanas, the physical postures that most of people associate with yoga, are only one branch of the yoga tree. Asana, the dominant form practiced by more than 24 million people in the U.S. alone, has been shaped extensively by Westerners over the last century and is a blend of new and old.

Asanas include forward-bends, back-bends, twists, standing and prone poses and are holistic movements designed to increase flexibility, strength, balance and well-being throughout the body and mind, preparing it for meditation and ultimately, liberation. Done skillfully and regularly, yoga allows habits that do not serve one to drop away and for a vitality to emerge from within.

One gentle introduction to the path to yoga that requires no prior experience or fitness level is called yoga nidra, also known as lucid sleep. Downward dog is not required for this yogic focusing of the mind that is used by the military to treat post-traumatic stress syndrome.

By the third stage of this eight stage guided relaxation, the brainwaves will exhibit a pattern of sleep but the mind will stay aware while a teacher brings the practitioner to a state of deep meditation. Follow an ancient yogic journey through internalization, setting intention, rotation of consciousness, breath awareness, manifestation of opposites, creative visualization, sealing intention and externalization to a state of complete physical, mental and emotional rest.

Simply lay back, breathe and listen. Expect to emerge from yoga nidra fully present, refreshed and with a new positive outlook on life. If you believe you are too fidgety to meditate, nidra will change your mind.

Coming up is an opportunity to experience yoga nidra. From December 4 to 6 at Estate Concordia, guest teachers from the Amrit Yoga Institute in Salt Springs, Florida will present The Gift of Yoga Nidra. Register by December 1 by visiting doyogastjohvi.com. The price for this event is \$250 and includes dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday, and a snack on Sunday.

Superior Court Issues Arrest Warrants for Sabers, McKenzie, Charleswell & Warner

St. John Tradewinds

Last week, a Superior Court Magistrate on St. Thomas issued arrest warrants for local business owners, Paul Sabers and Ed McKenzie, former Chief Enforcement Office for the Tax Assessor, Calford O. "Cappy" Charleswell, and Sylvester Warner of the Waste Management Authority.

McKenzie, Charleswell, and Warner have been arrested and appeared before the Magistrate to be advised of their rights.

Sabers was out of the territory and was arrested after he returned.

These arrests were the result of an extensive investigation conducted by the Office of the Virgin Islands Inspector General into the alleged fraudulent sale of real property at tax auctions conducted by the Lieutenant Governor's Office, Tax Assessor's Division.

The allegations are that between 2012 to 2013, these four men were involved in a scheme to defraud the government of the Virgin Islands as a result of manipulating the public bidding process for the sale of real properties auction for delinquent property taxes.

The auction is administered by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

These men have been charged with the following felonies: conspiracy; forgery; obtaining money by false pretenses; fraudulent claims upon the government; conversion of government property; grand larceny; embezzlement by public and private officers; and embezzlement or falsification of public accounts.

Any person accused of any crime in the Virgin Islands is innocent until proven guilty.

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JAZZ is a female pit-boxer around 2-years-old and does well with other dogs. She also does well with children. Jazz is undergoing heartworm treatment and will make a full recovery.

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December 14

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7th Annual Friends of VINP Online Auction Ends Dec. 6

St. John Tradewinds

The auction bell will soon ring for the last chance for some amazing St. John deals — the 7th Annual Friends of V.I. National Park Online Auction ends December 6, at 10 p.m. EST.

Check out the auction items now at www.biddingforgood.com/friendsvinp. There is something for everyone. As of press time, there were nearly 100 items to bid on, half of which had no bids, meaning there are great deals to be had!

The signature event raises funds to support programs and projects in V.I. National Park, and is perfect timing for holiday shopping. Find great deals on retail goods and services such as jewelry, dining, clothing, art, hotel and villa stays and excursions.

The online auction is a great place to build a vacation package, including great deals on vacation rentals; this year's auction has about 13 different villas and lodging options to bid on. Highlighted properties include seven-night stays at "...On a Clear Day...", "Bombalassy Villa" and Caneel Bay Resort, among others. There are also getaways to Jost Van Dyke and Scrub Island, BVI.

Jewelry lovers shouldn't miss a deal on an emerald, diamond and platinum ring from R&I PATTON Goldsmithing. Sailing and boating excursions abound including BVI group trips. Many restaurant gift certificates are up for bids, including the new Extra Virgin and in-home catering from Oasis Private Chefs. A special new item this year is a helicopter tour with Caribbean Buzz.

This year's goal is to raise \$60,000 to support Friends' mission of the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural resources of Virgin Islands National Park and to promoting the responsible enjoyment of this unique national treasure.

For more information about the auction, contact Friends' Development Director Karen Vahling at 779-4940 or kvahling@friendsvinp.org.

Coral Bay Bizarre Bazaar is Dec. 12

St. John Tradewinds

Mark those calendars and dust off those jingle bells — on December 12, the Coral Bay Bizarre Bazaar hosted by Coral Bay Community Council returns for its third year to Pickles In Paradise from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At last year's event, hundreds of St. John residents and island visitors alike reveled at the party of the season. While enjoying non-stop music, dancing, eating, drinking, shopping, and a surprise visit from Santa Claus, attendees raised more than \$15,000 through fundraising raffles, contests, auctions, and a yard and plant sale, which all supported Coral Bay Community Council activities.

And this year's party promises to be even bigger! There will be more entertainment, more shopping, more kids' activities, more prizes, more bizarre and more bazaar!

Naughty or nice, find the perfect handcrafted island gift for everyone on that gift list. Browse the wares of vendors offering unique art, crafts and edibles suited to every taste. Share the island life with friends and family by shipping home locally made specialties. Register for a vending space today! Generate holiday cash while supporting the community and having fun. Preferred placement for those who register and pay early; either six foot table space or 10 foot by 10 foot tent spaces are available. Rental tables are available on request. Contact Nancy Stromp at 775-0533.

Taste some of the best locally crafted beer at the Local Brew Competition hosted in partnership with the VI Brew Club and St. John Brewers. Beer artisans, enter today! Up to the challenge? Exhibit the best brew and take home the prize. Individuals and breweries are invited to participate. Contact the CBCC office at 776-2099 for more information.

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Wine Talk

Creating Harmonious Food and Wine Pairings for the Holidays

by Paul Tsakeres

St. John Tradewinds

Greetings from Island Cork! First let me congratulate Jaime Elliott for bringing our town paper back to a balanced, interesting and fun publication and to thank her for allowing me some space to ramble on about the varied and wonderful aspects of the great world of wine we are fortunate to be experiencing.

What will the future bring? It's a question bringing some very creative minds together. Randall Graham of Bonny Doon fame is diving into a project of creating clones that may one day thrive in a new environment. Silverado Vineyards is planting St. Laurent which has been growing in Burgenland (southern Austria) for the past 250 years. The best terroirs will soon no longer be where they have been!

Meanwhile, people are reevaluating their daily wine choices with as much scrutiny as when choosing tomatoes and corn that is not from Monsanto...and they should. When people learn about the additives and flavor enhancers the massive houses use to manipulate their wines some will be angry... and they should be.

It's not the sulfites but the glycol packets, the interventionist style, the manner of extraction, which causes unbalanced wine and your headache. Even yeasts in American wines are coming more from labs while European wines are often more organic and use what their land provides. Organic farming is more of a lifestyle, not a fad in Europe.

Young wine makers who have studied at UC Davis are returning home to their families' vineyards in Italy and Greece and while respecting tradition, are integrating modern techniques that complement the old world in which they

live. Valuing simplicity, they get out of the way of the natural development of their wine as much as possible.

Enough of that, the Holidays are approaching and there are a very nice range of wines to explore!

I thought a discussion about wine and food pairings would be useful for this time of year. In creating harmonious pairings, consider flavors, aromas, textures and intensity of the selections. One model highlights two approaches, congruent and complementary. A congruent pairing occurs when one amplifies harmonious flavors. On the other hand, a complementary pairing is one where the counteraction of the elements creates balance. Ah, balance.

If you are planning a Traditional Turkey Dinner at any point this season, consider these wine selections.

One complementary pairing could certainly include an Oregon Pinot Noir. They are more cranberry nuanced and so line up nicely with this side dish as well as the sweet potatoes that might accompany the meal.

However, I would start with a dry Prosecco from Valdobienne to greet guests and anyone wishing to continue through the dinner drinking that it would be fine. I'd kick the challenge up with a Sparkling Lambrusco. Off dry with hints of rhubarb, it would be a great aperitif and dinner selection too. I'd also consider a cru Beaujolais from Brouilly or a Morgon which have a lightness from their acidity and depth of flavor which makes them complex.

Another red wine to consider is from Priorat, Spain. The Garnacha grape (from the French Grenache) is blended with other indigenous grapes from the area and offers a full bodied and spicy experience.

The sweet and spicy elements of the Garnacha helps to complement the flavors of fall spices, while at the same time match up to the sweetness of the cranberry sauce. For a white wine, consider a crisp Chablis, which is an unoaked Chardonnay, or try a Muscadet. They have a natural salinity and minerality which pair well with the white meat and the bird in particular.

When considering the many and varied directions to take for that next wine and food pairing, remember some of these useful rules of the road. High acid foods are better with high acid wines. Many people enjoy the gazpacho at La Tapa with a Gruener Vetliner, as a good example.

Rich foods require a high tannin red which acts as a palate cleanser to the rich proteins. I pine for a real steakhouse experience to enjoy a big California Cab and a porterhouse! A pungent food like Gorgonzola is magical with wines that have more sweetness and acidity, like Riesling or Gewurztraminer. A cold sweet wine with low alcohol will counteract the burn of a spicy dish. Finally, sweet foods can make dry wines seem flat, so try pairing a sweet food with sweet wine (the area of Cadillac in France offer some great values).

There are a great many affordable fine wines at Island Cork. A host always shines when they offer guests a selection that is going to be a great without spending a fortune!

Shop for your wine at Island Cork where all the wines mentioned are on special thru December. You can get a magical pairing for any event, whether for a Traditional Dinner, a Vegetarian Dish or a Cheese Board, I'll send you along with something terrific, interesting and delicious.

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Letters to *St. John Tradewinds*

Charity Yard Sale Set for Dec. 5

St. John Tradewinds

Did you miss clearing out your closets for the ACC yard sale? Is your feng shui messed up by your over-stuffed shelves? Are you looking for that certain something, but don't want to pay anywhere near retail? Want to help some great organizations but don't know how?

Help is around the corner!

The 5th Annual Pets and Vets Yard Sale is on December 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m-ish across from Pickles, Coral Bay. The sale usually starts strong, so come early for best selection.

All proceeds go to a combination of St. John organizations and to St. John Team River Runner and Companions for Heroes (www.companionsforheroes.org).

Team River Runner brings wounded vets here the first week in Nov. for some much-needed R and R. Companions for Heroes is a national organization that matches shelter dogs with vets and first responders with PTSD.

There are always surprises (carved ostrich egg,

anyone?) but you can count on linens, good quality sheets all sizes, towels, beach towels, tablecloths, kitchen gear, small appliances—toasters, coffee makers, coffee grinders, blenders, etc—housewares, clothing, DVDs, Christmas stuff, beach stuff, lamps, office stuff, mirrors, tools, boat speakers, telescope, and more.

Please call me at 227-8349 or 693-5249. I'll do my best to pick up/arrange convenient drop-off of donations. It's much easier to have stuff ahead of time, so items can be sorted into categories for display, but we also accept the day of the sale.

This is the 5th year for the event, and the second sale in 2015. Our March 2015 sale raised \$2,640. ACC got \$400, St. John Rescue got \$2,000 (it was right after that horrible North Shore Road accident), Companions for Heroes got \$240. Money mix changes, but always goes to good causes.

Thanks for your support and see you and your friends on December 5th! Go green — shop yard sales!

Angela Ebner

Be Sure to Drive Defensively

Once again I am writing to ask you to contact a government official regarding the rapid failure of post CCA trRecently while driving from one end of the island into town, I had three episodes of near misses with my vehicle.

A delivery truck was coming down hill and strayed into my oncoming lane, cutting the corner of one of our many curves. A tourist

in a rental car stopped in the lane of traffic, just around a blind curve to feed donkeys and take pictures. A local was in hot pursuit, tailgating my vehicle on a wet slick roadway, skidding to a stop just before a near rear end collision could customize my ride.

As the season starts up, with more cars and trucks on the road, drive defensively. Anticipate that

truck driver, tourist or “have to catch the ferry”, local.

Our speed limit is 20 MPH for a reason. Mind it. Buckle up. Don't be that story we read about in the paper of a tragic loss of life or worse, be the cause of that loss.

Enjoy the season. Don't drink and drive. Choose life.

Dr Bob De Bonis

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SEND YOUR LETTERS, OPINIONS & EDITORIAL IDEAS TO:

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Crossword Answers (Puzzle located on Page 20)

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Thankspigging Organizers Thank Sponsors

St. John Tradewinds

This years Thankspigging, “A Giver’s Feed,” fed about 125 people. As always, there was great home cooking with love. Thank you to the sponsors, beer donations, volunteers and those who were able to bring food to share.

Thankspigging 2015 sponsors were; Dr. Bob – Island Chiropractic, Nancy and Jason – Do Yoga St John and Knot E Buoys Charters; Hank and Judy – Maho; Doug and Anna – Coral Bay Computer and Keep Me Posted; Kathy and Stan – Decision Interiors; Gerry and Martha; Leigh and Diana; Wayne – Concordia; Erin and Amy – The Triple B; Kate – Kate and Design; Fred and Aimee – Trayser Construction; Nick and Denise – Cliffhanger Villa; Rob and Kim; Vince and Brian – Estate Fortsberg Villa; Donnie and Leif – Two Good Men; Bill and Pat; Sunnyrock Steve; and Dale and Ayn.

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Volunteer Staff: Sandi, Megan, Pat, Bill, Benji, Richard, new guy Chris, Dr. Julie, David, me son Jonah and Anna.

Thanks also to: Anne for another great breakfast; Jeff for the deep fried turkeys; Brian for this year’s art work; and Doug and Jaime for letting us use Skinny’s space.

And a special note for our friend and chef, MJ: he never was able to attend because he was always working on Thanksgiving but he always managed to provide the 50 pounds of roasted garlic mashed potatoes. Coral Bay loves and misses you and your food that you always prepared and served with love.

Thank you one and all!

With Positive Thoughts,

Ken Yolman

Caroline Rogers' "More Fun with Feathers, Fins and Flippers" at Bajo el Sol Dec. 4



St. John Tradewinds

Combining her ecological knowledge and her adeptness with a camera, Caroline Rogers will present "More Fun with Feathers, Fins, and Flippers" on Friday, December 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Bajo el Sol Gallery at Mongoose Junction.

The collection of photos, all but one of which were taken within the V.I. National Park and the V.I. Coral Reef National Monument, showcase the island's beauty in conjunction with the National Park Service's upcoming Centennial.

"In August 2016 the National Park Service turns 100, and I've recently been more and more aware of how much the National Park lands mean to all of us," said Rogers, a marine ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, which works closely with the VINP.

"I want this show to celebrate the VINP and the V.I. Coral Reef National Monument," said the artist.

Rogers has presented several shows at Bajo el Sol in the past, most of which focused on life below the surface. At her December 4 opening, guests can expect to see more above the surface scenes focusing largely on birds. The majority of the photos that will be on display were taken within the last several months; some are of species Rogers had never seen before.

"This year was the first time I'd had a chance to see



St. John Tradewinds News Photos
courtesy of Bajo el Sol

Be sure to stop by Bajo el Sol to see the newest works by Dr. Caroline Rogers



a tricolored heron, and they're absolutely beautiful," Rogers said of her encounter with the bird at Francis Bay. "I've lived on St. John a long time now but I'm still able to find something new. There are still discoveries to make on the island."

Another image captures the elusive copper sweeper fish under a ledge in Great Lameshur Bay. Other photographs at the exhibit include an eagle ray, a green sea turtle, a scrawled filefish, and sea life that, while at times is undesirable, is indescribably beautiful in its natural habitat — jellyfish and Sargassum.

All of Rogers' marine images were taken while snorkeling, revealing the beautiful underwater world that's easily accessible to so many residents and visitors. Rogers' work is a totally local production; her images are printed right on St. John by John Baldwin of Frames of Mind.

"This show is a celebration of the natural diversity we have on island," said Rogers. "It's a celebration of what the Virgin Islands National Park offers us."

Rogers' images will be featured at Bajo el Sol for the entire month of December. Light refreshments and a flute performance by Katha Ricciardi will accompany the December 4 show. For more information on Bajo el Sol, visit www.bajoelsolgallery.com.

DID YOU KNOW...

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St. John Recycling Association
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(and many more)
Call to add your registered non-profit to this list

**IT'S A SIMPLE SOLUTION:
Underwrite a yearly advertising budget
for your favorite community group.**

St. John Tradewinds supports all registered non-profit organizations with a non-profit advertising rate. For more information, call 776-6496.

**NEXT DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**

Community Calendar

St. John Tradewinds welcomes notices of community-oriented, not-for-profit events for inclusion in this weekly listing. Call 776-6496 or e-mail editor@tradewinds.vi.

Saturday, December 5

— Angela Ebner is hosting her fifth annual charity yard sale across from Pickles in Paradise in Coral Bay on Saturday, December 5. Come by early to get some great deals or make a donation to the worthy causes Ebner supports with her annual yard sale.

Saturday, December 5

— Join the members of the Bethany Moravian Church at their annual Pre-Christmas Dinner and Show on Saturday, December 5, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$8 for children, which can be paid at the door. For tickets and more information, call (340) 776-6291 or email Opti93@yahoo.com.

Sunday, December 6

— Join the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. John at Giff Hill School's Lower Campus great room to Gabriella Brand speak on "The Unitarians of India."

Saturday, December 12

— CBCC is hosting the annual Bizarre Bazaar at Pickles in Paradise. Shopping, beer competition and more. Fun for the whole family all day. Event starts at 11 a.m.

Sunday, December 13

— Join the Unitarian Uni-

versalist Fellowship of St. John at Giff Hill School's Lower Campus great room to Gabriella Brand speak on "What are You Afraid Of?"

Saturday, January 9, 2016

— Join VINP Ranger Corinne Fenner for a hike to the top of Ram's Head during the Full Moon while exploring the southernmost point of St. John with the Friends of VINP Seminiar Series.

February 4, 2016

— The Sis Frank Concert Series 2016 promises to be one of the most exciting line-ups ever at St. John School of the Arts!

Grammy Award-Winning Parker Quarte will start off this year's season on February 4 covering classical and contemporary works.

February 6, 2016

— This is the date for the Animal Care Center Winter Gala Fundraiser. It is scheduled to be at the beautiful Sirenusa Resort from 6 to 10 p.m. The theme for the event, and other information will be available very soon...Save The Date!

April 22- 23, 2016

— "Broadway Comes to St. John" 2016 is scheduled for April 22 and April 23!

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

All meetings are now open. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 6 p.m. Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cruz Bay; Thursday 7 a.m. Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cruz Bay; Sunday 9:45 a.m., Hawksnest Bay Beach; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 6 p.m. at Moravian Church, Coral Bay

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Narcotics Anonymous has open meetings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Saturday at St. Ursula's Church.

AL-ANON MEETINGS

For Al-Anon meeting location and times, please call (340) 642-3263

Brand Speaking at UU Fellowship Meetings Dec. 6 & 10

St. John Tradewinds

Join the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (UUF) of St. John, for Sunday Service at 10 a.m. December 6 at Giff Hill School Lower Campus to hear Gabriella Brand speak on "The Unitarians of India."

There are 15,000 Unitarians in India and they have their own state holiday. In spring 2015, Brand went to Meghalaya under the auspices of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council to visit Unitarian churches, schools and orphanages in the Khasi Hills, near Bangladesh. Her visit provoked as many questions as answers. Brand will share what she learned from the gracious and welcoming congregants and ministers she encountered.

Brand will speak on "What are you Afraid Of" at the UUF of St. John meeting on December 13 at 10 a.m. at Giff Hill School Lower Campus.

Fear can be a gift, but it doesn't usually come with instructions. Brand, a counselor and writer, helps demystify the nature of many anxieties.

Brand is an educator, writer and linguist. She served as a Middle School Head in three private schools and currently works as an international consultant. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in a variety of publications and she was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2014. A Unitarian for more than 50 years, Brand speaks five languages and travels widely, mostly on foot. She has completed several spiritual pilgrimages.

GHS Students Win Second Place at Agriculture Fair on St. Thomas



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Judi Shimel

By Judi Shimel

St. John Tradewinds

Governor Kenneth Mapp looks on as representatives from Giff Hill School accept a 2nd place award for best school exhibit at the 2015 St. Thomas/St. John Agriculture and Food Fair.

The awards were given at the opening ceremony of the agriculture fair on November 21.

The Ivanna Eudora Kean High School won first place in the judging. The Gladys Abraham Elementary School of St. Thomas won third place.

The non-profit agriculture group, Fintrac, gave the schools cash prizes for their achievements.



On *the* Market

A feature dedicated to special homes on the market listed with *Tradewinds* real estate advertisers*

Rare Water's Edge Living Awaits at Beach Garden

St. John Tradewinds

You'll never tire of listening to the magical sound of the waves lapping against the shoreline as you gaze out to the horizon from Beach Garden.

Nestled at the mouth of picturesque Chocolate Hole Bay, the four bedroom, four and a half bathroom villa Beach Garden is for sale for \$4.4 million, explained Islandia Real Estate/Seaglass Properties broker associate Lynn Giovanna.

Perched on a full 1.07 acre lot in the desirable Estate Chocolate Hole neighborhood, Beach Garden is only a short drive from the dining and nightlife of Cruz Bay. The island's famed North Shore beaches are also only a few minutes drive away.

"Beach Garden makes a perfect jumping off point for exploring St. John," said Giovanna. "And for days when you're more in the mood to put your feet up than go out on adventures, this villa is definitely the place to be."

With a custom gourmet kitchen, you'll be planning dinner parties with all your friends. The floor to ceiling windows in the massive great room brings those stunning water views right inside. Other amenities at this elegant villa include spacious formal dining and living rooms and a plush media room.

As beautiful as the interiors are at the exquisite Beach Garden, with its panoramic sunrise views at the water's edge, you'll be itching to go outside. Work on your tan and soak up the tropical rays as you lounge by the large infinity edge swimming pool, or count the stars overhead as you relax in the jacuzzi with a cocktail in the evening.

Be sure to find some quiet time to enjoy the meditation garden at Beach Garden and feed the fish in the property's Koi pond.

Step inside the fully air conditioned villa and you'll find every modern convenience. The kitchen, with its Gaggenau

oven, Viking stove and subzero refrigerator, is a chef's dream.

The four master bedroom suites will have you falling asleep in the lap of luxury. Each bedroom offers its own distinct character with amenities such as teak outdoor showers, private balconies, office areas, ocean views, private gardens and much more.

"This property really must be seen to be fully appreciated," said Giovanna.

With the view from Beach Garden's pool, you can spend your days simply watching sailboats tack gracefully back and forth or curl up with a good book at one of the villa's many spacious sun decks or covered terraces, indulging in those cooling breezes.

For more information about Beach Garden, call Giovanna at Islandia Real Estate/Seaglass properties at (340) 776-6666 or on her cell phone at (340) 344-1825.



(340) 228-2090
www.islandcork.com
paul@islandcork.com
 located within Mongoose Junction
 Uncorked every Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat. 1-5
 and Sunday by appointment only.

- boutique wine shop
- villa & online provisioning
- wine group meetings
- tastings with guest wine makers
- daily wine tastings
- wine consultations
- promotions & discounts



**Get in on the Story -
 Share Your Thoughts with
 Tradewinds
 editor@tradewinds.vi**

Church Directory

Baha'i Community of St. John

For Devotions and Study Circles, call 714-1641
7:30 p.m. Fridays; Study Circles 9 a.m. Sundays
776-6316, 776-6254

Bethany Moravian Church

Sunday School 9 a.m., Divine Worship 10 a.m.

Calvary Baptist Church

13 ABC Coral Bay, 776-6304
Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday evening 6 p.m., Thursday 7 p.m.

Christian Ministry

Cinnamon Bay Beach
Inter-Denominational, Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Sun. 9 a.m., on St. Thomas . 776-2379
Sun., 5 p.m., STJ, Lumberyard

Cruz Bay Baptist Church

Sunday 11 a.m., 6 p.m. 776-6315

Emmaus Moravian Church

Coral Bay, Divine Worship 8:30 a.m., 776-6713

Freshwater Church

Freshwater Church St. John USVI
Sunday Worship 10 am at Hawksnest Beach
Follow us on Facebook, 340.514.6578

Jehovah's Witness

7:30 p.m. Tuesdays; 7 p.m.
Saturdays (Español), 10 a.m. Sundays, 340-715-053

Missionary Baptist Church

9:30 a.m. Sunday Services, 10:45 Worship,
Tuesday 7 p.m. Bible Study 693-8884

Nazareth Lutheran Church

Sunday 9 a.m., Sunday School 8 a.m. 776-6731

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Saturdays: 6 p.m.; Sundays: 7:30 & 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. in Coral Bay
at the John's Folly Learning Institute & 6 pm. in Spanish;
Mondays: 12:15 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 7 a.m.
& Fridays: 7 p.m. Call 776-6339 for more information.

Prayer House of Faith

Sunday Morning Service at 8 a.m; Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays
Prayer services at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; 340-690-3820

St. John Methodist Church

Sunday 10 a.m, 693-8830

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturdays, 779-4477

St. John Pentecostal Church

Sunday 11:05 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays Prayer 7:30 p.m.,
Thursdays Bible Study 7:30 p.m. 779-1230

St. Ursula's Episcopal Church

Sunday Church Service, 9 a.m.
Bible Class on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. 777-6306

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sunday, 776-6332

Friends Seminar Series - January 2016

St. John Tradewinds

Full Moon Hike

Saturday, January 9, from 5 - 8:30 p.m.

Join VINP Ranger Corinne Fenner for a hike to the top of Ram's Head during the full moon while exploring the southernmost point of St. John. On the hike, participants will learn about the fascinating natural and cultural history that exists in this area of the island.

Meet: Salt Pond parking lot

Bring: snack, water, wear hiking shoes, flashlight or headlamp

Seminar Fee: \$30 members/\$40 non-members

Max Group: 25

Maho/Whistling Cay Kayak

Sunday, January 10, from 9:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Maho Bay/Whistling Cay area is rich in history and underwater beauty. A Hidden Reef Tours guide will help participants discover an area commonly observed from a distance but rarely from up close. The ocean currents along this historic cay create snorkeling that is rich with soft corals and teeming with life. This trip is not designed for beginners, but intermediate and advanced snorkelers/kayakers are encouraged to attend.

Meet: Maho Bay parking lot

Bring: lunch, water, wear swimsuit, towel hat, sunscreen, camera

Seminar Fee: \$55 members/\$65 non-members

Max Group: 8

Pastels with Livy Hitchcock

Sunday, January 10, from 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

Learn the technique of pastels while creating tropical landscapes at Caneel Bay under the instruction of resident artist Livy Hitchcock.

Meet: Take resort shuttle to Turtle Bay Veranda

Bring: drinking water, wear old clothes

Seminar Fee: \$75 members/\$85 non-members

11-29

J X J M N I I - H U K M U U N M S K Q H D O X S U O Z T X D I C P ,
O P N I O N G N X T N E K B X V K V C I J Q P N G N Q J Z N
E C B X P N D K V J - D K I J .

Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals C

© 2015 by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Max Group: 4

Henley Cay Kayak Adventure

Friday, January 15, from 2 -5 p.m.

Join VI Ecotours for an afternoon of adventure and fun exploring both Caneel Bay and Henley Cay on St. John. Enjoy spectacular views of the British Virgin Islands while kayaking past palm-fringed beaches and snorkeling in the heart of the Virgin Islands National Park.

Meet: Honeymoon Beach. Take taxi to Caneel Bay Resort, then a short walk or hike to Honeymoon Beach via the Lind Point Trail.

Bring: Water, snack, hat, towel, hiking shoes, wear bathing suit

Seminar Fee: \$75 members/\$85 non-members

Max Group: 10

Kayak Hurricane Hole

Sunday, January 17, from 10 a.m. -3 p.m.

Join Arawak Expeditions for a kayak through the Coral Reef National Monument; stop along the way for a picnic lunch and snorkel the mangroves and sea grass beds.

Meet: Skinny Legs restaurant to carpool

Bring: lunch, water, snorkel gear, hat, sunscreen and towel

Seminar Fee: \$85 members/\$95 non-members

Max Group: 11

Seashore Walk

Wednesday, January 20, from 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

A fun activity perfect for families! Join VINP Ranger Laurel Brannick for a seashore walk of Mary's Creek and Leinster Bay where participants will observe numerous fish, crustaceans, corals and more. Bring a picnic lunch.

Meet: Annaberg Parking Lot

Bring: lunch, water, wear closed heel water shoes or sandals, towel, hat, sunscreen

Seminar Fee: \$25 members/\$35 non-members

Max Group: 20

Lameshur Bay/VIERS Tour

CRYPTOQUIP

Tuesday, January 26, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join the friendly staff at the Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station (VIERS) on a historical walk around Lameshur Bay. Enjoy a short hike of the Yawzi Trail to the ruins of an 18th century great house. Cap off the trip with a visit to VIERS for lunch and a tour of the facility, including the famous Tektite Underwater Habitat Museum. Trip includes lunch!

Meet: Lameshur Bay Parking Lot

Bring: notebook and water

Seminar Fee: \$25 members/\$35 non-members

Max Group: 25

Hike with the "Super"

Wednesday, January 27, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join VI National Park Superintendent Brion FitzGerald for a very special hike of the L'Esperance trail, followed by a boat ride from Reef Bay back to Cruz Bay. It is a 2.5 mile hike, and involves steep climbs in spots. This hike is moderately difficult, and therefore not for beginners. This is a unique opportunity to see the beauty of the park from a fresh perspective.

Meet: National Park Visitors Center

Bring: lunch, water, hat, sunscreen

Seminar Fee: \$55 members/\$65 non-members

Max Group: 8

Caneel Bay Paddleboard Tour

Friday, January 29, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Join VI Ecotours on a paddleboard trip from Honeymoon Beach to explore the waters of Solomon Beach and Caneel Bay.

Meet: VI Ecotours, Honeymoon Beach. Taxi to Caneel Bay Resort, then a short walk to Honeymoon or Hike to Honeymoon Beach via the Lind Point Trail

Bring: snack, water, towel, hat, sunscreen

Maya Mathews-Sterling Named Winner of Silver Stevie Award

St. John Tradewinds

Maya Matthews-Sterling, co-owner of Caribbean Solar Company has been named the winner of a Silver Stevie® Award in the 12th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business.

The Stevie Awards for Women in Business are the world's top honors for female entrepreneurs, executives, employees and the organizations they run.

All individuals and organizations worldwide are eligible to submit nominations – public and private, for-profit and non-profit, large and small. The 2015 awards received entries from 31 nations and territories.

Stevie Award winners were selected by more than 160 executives worldwide who participated in the judging process this year. Caribbean Solar Company won in the Female Entrepreneur of the Year for Consumer Services – 10 or Less Employees category.

“We are again humbled by the accomplishments of so many high-achieving women in this program,” said Michael Gallagher, founder and president of the Stevie Awards. “Their work is an inspiration to girls and women around the world who dream of starting and growing a business, managing a leading company, or improving

their community.”

Details about the Stevie Awards for Women in Business and the list of Stevie Award winners are available at www.StevieAwards.com/Women.

As co-founder and owner of Caribbean Solar Company, Maya Matthews-Sterling is dedicated to providing high quality, sustainable energy throughout the United States Virgin Islands and the Caribbean.

As a strong advocate for solar rights in the USVI, Matthews-Sterling participates in an energy roundtable made up of local stakeholders which meets regularly to discuss energy priorities in the territory.

Matthews-Sterling is constantly working on new methods to keep solar affordable to residents within all income brackets.

Since their inception in 2012, Caribbean Solar Company has commissioned over 600,000 watts of solar energy on St. John. These installations will offset more than 15 thousand tons of carbon dioxide throughout their expected lifetime, the equivalent of planting almost 800,000 trees.

“These Virgin Islanders work tirelessly to protect human health and the environment, inspiring us all to strive for a more sustainable



future,” said Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator Judith A Enck earlier this year at the Environmental Champion Awards.

Caribbean Solar Company is a quality and customer service driven solar energy company. Their systems are installed for optimal sun exposure and to withstand harsh island weather. Whether you are ready to invest in a complete solar system or are shopping

around for other green options, Caribbean Solar Company can help find the right solar product for any client.

Find out more about their solar operations and maintenance, off grid power, solar hot water, and solar generators at their website www.caribbeansolarcompany.com.

Stevie Awards are conferred in six programs: the Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards, the German Stevie

Awards, The American Business Awards, The International Business Awards, the Stevie Awards for Women in Business, and the Stevie Awards for Sales & Customer Service. Honoring organizations of all types and sizes and the people behind them, the Stevies recognize outstanding performances in the workplace worldwide. Learn more about the Stevie Awards at www.StevieAwards.com.

V.I. Audubon Society Looking for Christmas Bird Count Volunteers

St. John Tradewinds

The annual Christmas Bird Count on St. John is set for Saturday, December 19.

The Virgin Islands Audubon Society will conduct a count of birds and report the findings to the National Audubon Society. Volunteers are needed to help.

Anyone who is not sure of a certain bird species need not worry, the group will assign a more experienced birder with new volunteers. If interested in participating, please call Laurel Brannick at 776-6201.

From December 14 through January 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission - often before dawn.

For more than 100 years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of their homes during the Holiday season. The data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of the bird population and help guide conservation actions across the Americas.



St. John Tradewinds News Photos courtesy of Gail Karlsson

Volunteers are needed to count the island's bird population.

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, NOV. 29, 2015

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BROADWAY OPENINGS

St. John Tradewinds Business Directory

Accommodations

Caribbean Villas & Resorts
tel. 1-800-338-0987
or locally 340-776-6152

Island Getaways
888-693-7676,
islandgetawaysinc.com
kathy@islandgetawaysinc.com

Suite St. John Villas/Condos
tel. 1-800-348-8444
or locally at 340-779-4486

Architecture

Crane, Robert - Architect, AIA
tel. 776-6356
P.O. Box 370, STJ, VI 00831

Art Galleries

Bajo el Sol Gallery
Located in Mongoose Junction
tel. 340-693-7070

Kimberly Boulon Fine Art Gallery
Located at The Marketplace
340-693-8524

Banking

Firstbank
Located in downtown Cruz Bay
340-776-6881

Furniture

Carlos Furniture - 340-693-0016
Located at Tutu Park Mall on STT
Free delivery and setup to St. John

Green Building

Island Green Building Association
check www.igbavi.org for Seminar
Series info and ReSource Depot
inventory

Insurance

PGU Insurance
Located at The Marketplace
776-6403; pgunow@gmail.com

Theodore Tunick & Company
Phone 775-7001 / Fax 775-7002
www.theodoretunick.com

Jewelry

R&I PATTON goldsmithing
Located in Mongoose Junction
776-6548 or (800) 626-3445
Chat@pattongold.com

Landscaping

Alfredo's Landscaping
tel. 774-1655 cell 513-2971
P.O. Box 91, St. John, VI 00831

Coral Bay Garden Center
tel. 693-5579 fax 714-5628
P.O. Box 1228, STJ, VI 00831

Real Estate

340 Real Estate Company, LLC
340-643-6068 or 340-779-4478
340realestateco@gmail.com
www.340realestateco.com

Holiday Homes of St. John
tel. 776-6776 fax 693-8665
P.O. Box 40, STJ, VI 00831
info@holidayhomesVI.com

Islandia Real Estate
tel. 776-6666 fax 693-8499
P.O. Box 56, STJ, VI 00831
info@islandiarealestate.com

Restaurants

Fish Trap Restaurant and Seafood Market
tel. 693-9994, Closed Mondays

La Tapa Restaurant
tel. 693-7755
Open 7 Days a Week

Ocean 362
American Contemporary Cuisine
For reservations, call 340-776-0001

Skinny Legs
"A Pretty OK Place"
tel. 340-779-4982
www.skinnylegs.com

Services

C4th Custom Embroidery
tel. 779-4047
Located in Coral Bay

Wedding Services

Weddings by Katilday
www.stjohnweddingplanner.com
340-693-8500 - Consulting, Travel
Coordination, Accommodations

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 China's Mao — -tung | 1 Greek letter |
| 4 Thumb locale | 2 Perm place |
| 8 Cries of unveiling | 3 Foe |
| 13 Spanish fleet | 4 Toot |
| 19 Post-bender headache | 5 Bristol's river |
| 21 Poetry Muse | 6 Pianist Peter |
| 22 One-sided views | 7 Party to a financial transaction |
| 23 Old stage actress Duse | 8 Giggled |
| 24 "Things go by so fast!" | 9 Yank with a #13 jersey |
| 26 "As far as I'm aware ..." | 10 Hip-hop bud |
| 28 Brunched, e.g. | 11 "Listen up!" |
| 29 Kwik-E-Mart clerk | 12 "— lied!" |
| 30 Writer Seton | 13 Help do bad |
| 31 Iris locale | 14 Plentiful |
| 32 Pres. advisory gp. | 15 Bad start? |
| 34 New — (Yanni, e.g.) | 16 Cheese in an Italian deli |
| 35 Become king after being a prince, say | 17 Intensify |
| 43 Quirk of behavior | 18 Make certain |
| 46 — Schwarz (toy retailer) | 20 Some Spanish paintings |
| 47 Kuwaiti royal | 25 Spiked staff |
| 48 A third of IX | 27 Harsh cleanser |
| 49 Totally up the creek | 33 "I dunno" gesture |
| 55 Semi section | 34 Financier Onassis |
| 58 Witty writer Bombeck | 36 ET ship |
| 59 Hornswoggle | 37 Avis rental |
| 60 Actress Swenson | 38 Unemotional |
| 61 Hill's partner | 39 Vietnamese New Year |
| 62 Nose partition | 40 Actor Katz |
| 65 Piece for two | 41 Dusk-dawn linkup |
| 67 Paid no heed | 42 Move quickly |
| 70 "We've been raking in the profit" | 43 Rail supports |
| 75 Advance markdown | 44 Pertaining to |
| 77 Requirement | 45 Singer Glen |
| 78 Church decrees | |
| 81 Painter of melting watches | |
| 82 Camera varieties, for short | |
| 86 Vientiane's country | |
| 88 "My Country" author Abba | |
| 89 Hole-poking tool | |
| 90 Phrase just before an act is introduced | |
| 95 Pouchlike body part | |
| 96 Incantation opener | |
| 97 River of Bern | |
| 98 Veer off course | |
| 99 What Thomas became, in kid-lit | |
| 107 Alone | |
| 108 See 102-Down | |
| 109 Love-letter "hugs" | |
| 110 Former toy company | |
| 114 Alley- (court play) | |
| 115 Juicer | |
| 117 Overdoing the effort | |
| 123 Writer of the Tony-winning musical featured in this puzzle | |
| 126 Flavored with a certain spice | |
| 127 Introduced acts, e.g. | |
| 128 Lenya of "Cabaret" | |
| 129 IRS part | |
| 130 Tallies again | |
| 131 Arctic people | |
| 132 Central part of a church | |
| 133 Star site | |
| 50 Fad dance of the 1960s | |
| 51 Bro | |
| 52 Sonata, e.g. | |
| 53 Honoraria | |
| 54 Actor Scott | |
| 55 Payload area | |
| 56 Bitter brew | |
| 57 Part of B&B | |
| 61 One of Santa's reindeer | |
| 63 Old Glory's nation | |
| 64 Wire measure | |
| 66 "Sn" element | |
| 68 Sierra maker | |
| 69 Actress Peeples | |
| 71 Lark's home | |
| 72 — -confident | |
| 73 Boyfriend | |
| 74 Hound's clue | |
| 75 High-tech "appt. book" | |
| 76 Uncooked | |
| 79 Zippo | |
| 80 Winter drifter | |
| 83 — apso | |
| 84 Pat of the Christian right | |
| 85 Ride a wave | |
| 87 Antler sporter | |
| 90 — -Mart (retail chain) | |
| 91 Unemotional | |
| 92 Gremek letter | |
| 93 "Bali —" | |
| 94 Suffix with southeast | |
| 95 Wily | |
| 99 Worker on a housetop | |
| 100 Huge, in French | |
| 101 Camel kin | |
| 102 With 108-Across, of acceptable quality | |
| 103 Department in northern France | |
| 104 Near-eternity | |
| 105 Noodle | |
| 106 Erstwhile anesthetic | |
| 111 Spun tales | |
| 112 Floorboard sound | |
| 113 Curiously | |
| 115 Lineup 121-Down | |
| 116 REO part string | |
| 118 Post-Q | |
| 119 Himalayan legend | |
| 120 Funny Fey | |
| 121 Showing via the idiot box | |
| 122 Arch with a double curve | |
| 124 Composer Rorem | |
| 125 Manning of football | |

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BROADWAY COMES TO ST JOHN

TRADEWINDS READER PHOTO - SEA HORSE



St. John Tradewinds News Photo by Leslie & Steve McKibben

Leslie and Steve McKibben shared their amazing photos of a sea horse. While it is rare to spot a sea horse, and even more difficult to snap a great photo of one, Steve and Leslie McKibben's photos prove these amazing creates can be found in local waters. Thanks for sharing these fantastic pictures with us.

Want to see your image in a future issue of St. John Tradewinds? Email your great St. John photos to editor@tradewinds.vi or post them to our Facebook page. You might just see your photo on the pages of Tradewinds.



Pan Dragons Christmas Concert is Dec. 19 at Frank Powell Park

St. John Tradewinds

Need a little Christmas?

Join the Love City Pan Dragons on Saturday, December 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Franklin A. Powell Sr. Park on the Cruz Bay waterfront.

Enjoy all those holiday favorites on steel pan. Purchases of CDs, tees, drinks and snacks benefit this community band. For more information, call Elaine Penn at (340) 998-3726.

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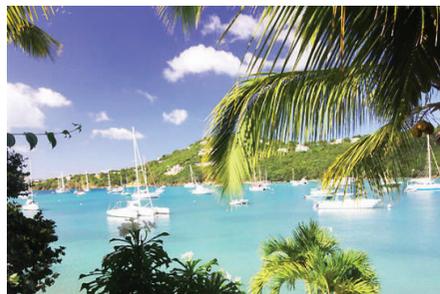
Villa Madeline | \$1,250,000
2 Beds | 2.5 baths | 2,300 sqft



Stone Court | \$1,325,000
3 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,121 sqft



Villa Ventosa | \$1,395,000
3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,100 sqft



Villa Splash | \$1,975,000
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Villa Venturoso | \$1,400,000
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Stone Court | \$1,325,000
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Beach Garden | \$4,400,000
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Luminaria | \$2,190,000
3 bed | 3.5 bath | 6,639 sqft



Rivendell | \$5,250,000
4 bed | 4.5 bath | 6,350 sqft



Rainbow Beach | \$2,195,000
5 bed | 4 bath | 3,800 sqft



Yellow Bird | \$699,000
3 bed | 3 bath | 2,229 sqft



Calabash Boom | \$577,000
2 bed | 3 bath | 1,497 sqft



Villa Sol Mate | \$1,475,000
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Villa Lucca | \$990,000
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34th Annual Thanksgiving Regatta

St. John Tradewinds

Captains and crew members braved all types of weather last weekend during the 34th Annual Thanksgiving Regatta hosted by Coral Bay Yacht Club.

On Friday, November 27, single handed racers took to the water under blue skies. A total of 13 racers sailed in moderate wind and small seas, enjoying the near perfect conditions in Coral Bay on the first day of the regatta.

Saturday, November 28, brought a fleet of about 23 boats, only 11 of which ended up completing the entire race course. Grey skies loomed over head as the boats jostled for position near the start line around 10 a.m. A squall blew through about an hour later, kicking up heavy winds and choppy seas. As quickly as it came, however, the weather changed again bringing near dead air across the bay. Crews battled to avoid rocks and make their way around the course in almost zero wind until late in the afternoon when the winds picked up again for the final sail to the finish line in Coral Bay harbor.

In the end, Reality Switch took first place in the PHRF Non-Spinnaker Class, followed by Zephyr and Runaway. O'dege, Poet's Lounge and Inspiration rounded out the class. White Album won the Pursuit Under 30 foot Fin Class while Southern Breeze won the Keel Class followed by Meander.

Sea Angel won the Classic Class and Yee Haw won the Multi Hull Class.

The weekend regatta wrapped up with live music and an awards party at Skinny Legs. Proceeds from the regatta benefitted the non-profit Kids and the Sea, St. John.

